(b) whether only the disciplines of Architectural and Electrical Engineering have been covered, excluding the discipline of civil engineering;

(c) whether similar post for Civil Wing is to be created soon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir, as indicated at (b) below.

(b) The post of Engineer-in-Chief (Elect.) was created personal to an officer in the Electrical discipline. The post of Architect-in-Chief in the Architectural discipline was created on the basis of recommendations of a Committee.

(c) and (d) The question of creation of a post at the level of Engineer-in-Chief in the Civil Wing is under examination. The policy in this regard will be evolved in relation to restructuring of the Hqs. of the Department of Telecommunications presently under consideration.

Disparities in Charges for STD/ISD in Hotels and Nursing Homes

2409. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nursing Homes, Public Call Offices and Five Star Hotels charge the same rates for local, inter-State and international Calls from their customers as prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications; and

(b) if not, the reasons for variations in their rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) While Departmental Public Call Offices operating on franchise basis are charging the rates prescribed by the Department of Telecommunications for local, inter-state and international calls from their customers, some of the Nursing Homes and Five Star Hotels are known to be charging higher call charges for these services from their customers on account of the overheads relating to telecom equipment, operating charges and environmental facilities provided by them.

Mass Casual Leave by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited Employees

2410. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited went on mass casual leave on the 24th January in support of their demands, snapping the country's telecommunication links with the rest of the world; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and the action Government propose to take to avert disruption of the country's telecommunication links?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir, there was no disruption of country's telecommunication links with the rest of the world on 24.1.1995. However, employees of VSNL had gone on mass casual leave on 24.1.1995 in support of their demand for issue of VSNL shares to them on preferential basis. The Government is taking all necessary steps to settle the issue.

Improvement of Telecommunication Services

2411. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any